

Financial Reporting Research Ideas Contest
OFFICIAL RULES

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Contest is open to Financial Reporting Section members. Only residents of the fifty states of the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada (excluding residents of Quebec) over the age of 18 are eligible to win a prize (Prize Winner defined below). These Contests are void in Puerto Rico and all other U.S. territories and possessions and where prohibited. Investment Section Council members are ineligible to win a prize. Employees of the Society of Actuaries are ineligible to participate. If you are not yet a Section member, you must join prior to entering the Contests. By entering, Entrants acknowledge compliance with these official rules including eligibility requirements for winning a prize. Contests are subject to all applicable federal, state, provincial and local laws and regulations. Sponsor reserves the right to verify eligibility qualifications of the Prize Winners. Entries received prior to or after the Submission Period are void.
2. **SUBMISSION PERIOD:** Entrants can enter the Contests by submitting an entry (“Entry”) form starting at 12:00 AM Central Standard Time on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024, through Monday, December 2nd, 2024 at 11:59:59 PM Central Standard Time (CDT) (“Submission Period”).
3. **HOW TO ENTER:** There is (1) one way to enter the Contest, by submitting an (“Entry) for the Contest you wish to enter by clicking on the link below:
 - a. https://soa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0AllGcTdvAWnHRY

All Entries must be received during the Submission Period.

4. **SELECTION OF WINNERS:** The winner (Contest Winner and Prize Winner) will be selected by the Financial Reporting Section Council. The Financial Reporting Section Council will review all ideas and announce semi-finalist via email. Financial Reporting Section members may submit a maximum of one (1) vote for their favorite semi-finalist. The member that submits the idea that makes the semi-finalist list and then subsequently receives the most votes will be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the Financial Reporting Section Council will select a winner from the tied semi-finalists.

Odds of winning will depend on the number of eligible entries received during the Contest Period. The Contests will be conducted by Sponsor, the judge of the Contests, whose decisions on all matters relating to the Contests shall be final and binding. At the sole discretion of Sponsor, disqualification, forfeiture and the selection of an alternate Contest and/or Prize Winners may result from any of the following: (1) a potential Prize Winner's failure to provide Sponsor with satisfactory proof of age, identity and residency and a Winner Affidavit and Release; and (2) any other non-compliance with the Official Rules.

5. **PRIZES:** The contest has a \$1,000.00 USD prize (“Prize”). The Financial Reporting Section intends to develop the winning idea into a formal research project. The Sponsor and the Financial Reporting Section Council may choose not to advance the winner's idea. The winner will not conduct the actual research but can participate in shaping and overseeing the project by volunteering their time as a member of the project oversight group.
6. The Contest Winner and Prize Winner will be selected at the SOA Offices at 8770 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60631 USA and notified, via email, on or about December 16th, 2024.

Prize is not transferable. No substitution allowed except, at Sponsor's sole discretion, a prize of equal or greater value may be substituted. Where required, a Prize Winner may be required to complete Affidavit of Eligibility/Liability/Publicity Release (where legal) and, if necessary, a W9 Taxpayer Identification Form. These documents must be signed, notarized and returned within seven (7) days of issuance of notification. Failure to comply will result in disqualification and the prize will be forfeited and may be awarded to another Entrant. All taxes on the Prize, if any, and other expenses related to accepting and/or using the Prize not listed in these Official Rules are the sole responsibility of the Winner, who will receive an IRS Form 1099 reflecting the final actual value of the Prize, if applicable.

7. **GENERAL RULES:** By entering or participating in the Contest(s), Entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and by the decisions of Sponsor, which are final and binding in all respects. Sponsor is not responsible for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information or technical failures of any kind, or (2) any other computer, network, technical, human or other error, problem or malfunction that may occur in connection with the administration of the Contests, the processing of entries, or the selection or notification of Contest and/or Prize Winner. Further, if, for any reason, the Contest is not capable of running as planned for reasons outside the control of the Sponsor which, in the sole opinion of Sponsor, may corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Contests (or portion thereof), Sponsor reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contests (or portion thereof). In the event of such cancellation, termination, modification or suspension, Sponsor will select a Prize Winner from all eligible, non-suspect entries received prior to such action. Sponsor also reserves the right at its sole discretion to disqualify the Entry of any individual found to be (a) tampering or attempting to tamper with the entry process or the operation of the Contest or (b) violating these Official Rules. Sponsor is not responsible for claims, injuries, losses or damages of any kind resulting, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from the awarding, delivery, acceptance, use, misuse, possession, loss or misdirection of the Prize; participation in these Contests or in any activity or travel related thereto or from any interaction with Contest information. Sponsor makes no warranties, and hereby disclaims any and all warranties, express or implied, concerning any Prize furnished in connection with these Contests.
8. **PARTICIPANT OBLIGATIONS:**
 - a. Entrants agree that the SOA may use his/her likeness, name, and biographical information, or any portion thereof, in conjunction with the Contests, promotion of the Financial Reporting Section, or the Society of Actuaries, in any and all media and formats, in whole or in part, throughout the world.
 - b. By entering, each Entrant agrees to defend, indemnify, release and hold harmless the Sponsor from and against any and all losses, demands, damages, rights, claims, injuries, actions and liabilities of any kind arising out of or related to Entrant's participation in the Contest. Any disputes that may arise hereunder shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Illinois without regard to the conflicts of laws principles of any jurisdiction. Venue with respect to any such disputes shall be had in the state and federal courts of the State of Illinois. Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. In any cause of action, the Sponsor's liability will be limited to four hundred dollars (\$400.00 USD), and in no event shall the Sponsor be liable for attorneys' fees and/or experts' fees and costs. By participating in the Contest, each Entrant waives the right to claim any additional damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, incidental, special or indirect damages.
9. **PERSONAL INFORMATION:** Personal information submitted to enter the Contest will only be used to in the event you win the Contest, if there is a question or issue regarding your Entry, and if there is an issue or news to communicate to you pertaining to the Contest. We will not disclose, give, sell, or transfer any personal information about you, unless required for law enforcement or by

statute. Notwithstanding the forgoing, Prize Winners' personal information will be used in accordance with Section 7(a).

10. WINNERS LIST: To obtain a copy of these Official Rules or for notification of the Prize Winner, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: 2024 Financial Reporting Research Ideas Contest Official Rules/Winner List Request, ATTN: Katelyn Kramer, 8770 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60631 USA. Requests for winner list must be received no later than three months after the end of the Contest. Vermont residents may omit return postage.
11. SPONSOR: The Sponsor of these Contests is the Society of Actuaries' Investment Section, 8770 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60631.